

Appl. No. : 09/777,420
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14. (Amended) A reel housing comprising a housing body configured to enclose a rotatable reel drum as linear material is spooled onto or unspooled from the drum, said housing body having an aperture through which hose is spooled or unspooled and a removable access panel having an exterior surface, wherein removal of said access panel allows access to an interior of said housing body, said exterior surface of said access panel being decorated with three dimensional facial indicia including one or more of (i) a pair of eyes, (ii) a nose or beak, and (iii) a mouth, wherein said aperture is located within said facial indicia.

21. (Amended) A reel housing configured to enclose a rotatable reel drum, said housing comprising a housing body and a facial indicia element configured to be selectively attached and detached from said housing body, said facial indicia element having an exterior surface decorated with facial indicia to resemble one of an animal, a human, a human-like character, and an alien creature, the housing having an aperture sized to closely receive spoolable linear material extending through said aperture, wherein said aperture is located within said facial indicia.

25. (Amended) A reel comprising a rotatable reel drum and a housing enclosing the reel drum, wherein the housing comprises a housing body and a facial indicia element configured to be selectively attached and detached from the housing body, the housing having an aperture sized to closely receive spoolable linear material extending through the aperture, the facial indicia element having an exterior surface decorated with facial indicia to resemble one of an animal, a human, a human-like character, and an alien creature, wherein said aperture is located within said facial indicia.

REMARKS

All of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In rejecting claims under § 103, the Examiner bears the initial burden of presenting a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992). To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the following criteria must be met. There must be some suggestion or motivation found in the prior art, either in one or more references or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify a prior art reference or to combine reference teachings to meet the limitations of the claim. Further, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488 (Fed. Cir.